

Policy last reviewed: July 2026

Next review due: July 2029

Member of staff responsible: Assistant Headteacher Behaviour & Culture

Governor's Committee: N/A SLT

Vision Statement:	Our vision is to be a centre of excellence for learning, inspired by Christian values, where every person in our school community fulfils their potential.
Mission Statement:	Our mission is to be a deeply Christian inclusive community which values every individual as a child of God.
Values Statement:	The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its students.

Dignity	Underpinning all that we do is the core belief in the ultimate worth of each person as a child of God – precious, valued and loved by God. Dignity comes from the knowledge of our ultimate worth as human beings.
Community	Having understood our value as individual human beings, we express this value through the quality of the relationships that we share with each other. Community, living well together, is of very great importance to us as a school, as is the place we each take in the wider community locally, nationally and internationally.
Wisdom	As a school we seek to foster confidence, delight and discipline in seeking wisdom, knowledge and truth. This is achieved through the nurturing of academic habits and skills, emotional intelligence, resilience and creativity across the breadth of the curriculum.
Hope	As we prepare our students for the future we look to open up horizons of hope and aspiration, encouraging our students to embrace these with confidence and sending them out to make a difference to the world in which they live.

Introduction

In February 2024, the Department for Education (DfE) released new guidance relating to the use of mobile phones in school. This guidance says that schools [should prohibit their use in school](#).

This was replaced with statutory guidance in June 2026 in the document [Mobile phones in schools](#). This replaced previous guidance which was only advisory. In this document, the DfE is clear that "all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default".

This policy (and the statutory Government guidance which has led to it) exist to ensure that all members of The Holy Trinity School community are safe and able to learn free from disruption.

How widespread is mobile phone use?

- By age 12, 97% of children own a mobile phone ([Education Hub](#))
- 29% of secondary school students reported mobile phones being used when they were not supposed to in "most, or all, lessons" ([Government Social Research](#))
- 47% of The Holy Trinity School students say they use their phone for 2 or more hours a day (this includes before and after school – internal school survey)
- 43% of students at The Holy Trinity School were issued a Behaviour Point on Class Charts for Mobile Phone Misuse for the academic year 2023-2024.

Why should we be concerned about this as a school community?

- 44% of UK parents are concerned about the amount of time their children spend on electronic devices. This rises to 50% for secondary school age children ([Parentkind](#) survey)
- 94% of parents say that smartphones are harmful to children ([Parentkind](#) survey)
- 19% of children have experienced cyberbullying. 72% of these students experienced at least some of it at school or during school time ([ONS report](#))
- Research suggests that phones have a negative impact on educational outcomes ([Published research study](#))

We also know that prolonged screen time can displace prosocial behaviours; e.g. spending time with friends. This is even more important now that students use iPads in lesson.

A successful Year 8 residential was organized in July 2024 where phones were banned, which showed that students will engage in significant positive behaviour if distractions and screen time are removed. In keeping with the Church of England's [Difference Project](#), we want our students to **be present** and "encounter others with authenticity and confidence".

Because of the above, the school prohibits the use of mobile phones and accessories (headphones etc) across all areas of the school site. This is for the length of the school day; meaning that they must not be seen or used whilst a student is on site.

Students who use their phone for diagnosed medical reasons e.g. checking blood glucose levels will continue to be allowed to do so.

Smartphones (and other smart technology)

The school's mobile phones and accessories policy has been updated to reflect the dangers posed by **smartphones** (and other smart technology) in particular. The school recognises that

many parents may want to contact their child on the way to or from school, but smartphones have many other features which are a risk to children's safety and learning.

Why should we be concerned about smartphone use in particular?

The organization Smartphone Free Childhood highlights evidence which suggests widespread use from children, with problematic consequences for their health and wellbeing:

- Ofcom 2025 - 1 in 3 6-7 year olds have their own smartphone, and this rises to 90% for 12 year olds.
- King's College London 2024 - Teens with problematic smartphone-use are twice as likely to have anxiety, and three times as likely to have depression .
- Children's Commissioner 2026 – 78% of children have been exposed to appearance-changing products online that had a negative impact on self-esteem .
- Birmingham University – 12-15 year olds spend between 4 and 6 hours each day on their devices.

The government also announced in June 2026 that it intends to [ban social media for under 16s to "give kids their childhood back"](#).

Following the statutory guidance regarding mobile phone use, and the increasing concerns about the impact of smartphones, the school has worked with Smartphone Free Childhood to devise a change to our mobile phones and accessories policy to ban Smartphones for Year 7 students.

'Brick phones'

From September 2026, The Holy Trinity Church of England Secondary School will be a 'brick phone' school for Year 7 students. A 'brick phone' is a basic phone which can be used to call or text but is not a smartphone and has limited internet access. They are significantly cheaper and easily accessible (e.g. from supermarkets). Smartphones will not be permitted on the school site for this year group.

Year 7 students are permitted to bring a basic "brick phone" for communication purposes outside of the school day (e.g. on the journey to/from school. These must be switched off during the school day and kept either in a zipped blazer pocket or in a bag. At HTS we confiscate any phone that is used by a student during the school day.

Can my child bring their mobile phone and accessories to school?

Year 7 students

Yes. We understand that students may have a phone for their safety travelling to/from school.

These must be a brick phone only – smartphones are not permitted at school and cannot be brought onto site.

Brick phones must be switched off and out of sight during the school day and when on site.

Year 8-13 students

Yes. We understand that students may have a phone for their safety travelling to/from school, and that others may listen to music etc on the journey. Smartphones are permitted, but **they must be switched off and out of sight** during the school day and when on site.

Any student who chooses to bring a phone or accessories to school does so entirely at their own risk. As per the [DfE guidance](#), the school will not be held liable for any loss or damage to phones that are confiscated.

Where must my child's phone be stored during the school day?

Mobile phones and accessories must be placed securely in a **school bag** or a **zipped blazer pocket** before entering the school site on arrival.

What if my child's phone or accessories are seen out of their school bag or zipped blazer pocket on site?

Year 7 students

If a brick phone is seen out of a school bag or zipped blazer pocket at any point it will be confiscated (regardless of whether it is being used). The confiscated item(s) will be placed in a secure location in school. This behaviour will be logged in line with the school's behaviour policy via Class Charts.

First time phone/accessories are confiscated:

- Student collects item(s) from the Year Detention Room at the end of the day after attending a Restorative Conversation.

Second time phone/accessories are confiscated in a half-term:

- As above

Third time phone/accessories are confiscated in a half-term:

- Parents/carers are requested to collect the item(s) at the end of the day and sign the log to say they have collected it. If parents/carers are unable to collect the item(s) it will be kept securely on site.
- Students will be required to sit an SLT detention.

Further offences of phone/accessories confiscated in a half-term:

- Students will be set an internal suspension. Parents/carers are requested to attend a meeting. The item will be kept until this meeting has happened and collected at the end of this meeting. If parents/carers are unable to collect the item(s) it will be kept securely on site.

If a smartphone is seen at any point there will be a more serious sanction, as these are not permitted to be brought into school.

First time smartphone is confiscated in an academic year:

- Parents/carers will be required to collect it at the end of the day.

Second time a smartphone is confiscated:

- The smartphone will be kept by the school for the remainder of the week from the date of confiscation. Parents/carers will then be required to collect it.

Third time a smartphone is confiscated:

- The smartphone will be kept by the school for the remainder of the half-term from the date of confiscation. Parents/carers will then be required to collect it.

Further smartphone confiscations in an academic year:

- The smartphone will be kept by the school for the remainder of the term.

- Students will be set an internal suspension. Parents/carers are requested to attend a meeting.

Where parents/carers are required to collect a smartphone, it does not need to be collected immediately – this can be done at a parent/carer's convenience and before school reception closes at 4.30.

If parents/carers are unable to collect the smartphone at any time, it will be kept securely on site.

Year 8 – 13 students

If a phone or accessories are seen out of a school bag or zipped blazer pocket at any point, they will be confiscated (regardless of whether they are being used). The confiscated item(s) will be placed in a secure location in school. This behaviour will be logged in line with the school's behaviour policy via Class Charts.

First time phone/accessories are confiscated:

- Student collects item(s) from the Year Detention Room at the end of the day after attending a Restorative Conversation.

Second time phone/accessories are confiscated in a half-term:

- As above

Third time phone/accessories are confiscated in a half-term:

- Parents/carers are requested to collect the item(s) at the end of the day. If parents/carers are unable to collect the item(s) it will be kept securely on site.
- Students will be required to sit an SLT detention.

Further offences of phone/accessories confiscated in a half-term:

- Students will be set an internal suspension. Parents/carers are requested to attend a meeting. The item will be collected at the end of this meeting. If parents/carers are unable to collect the item(s) it will be kept securely on site.

Where parents/carers are required to collect a phone/accessories, it does not need to be collected immediately – this can be done at a parent/carer's convenience and before school reception closes at 4.30.

If parents/carers are unable to collect the phone/accessories at any time, it will be kept securely on site.

What if my child refuses to follow this request and hand their device(s) to a member of staff?

Students will be set an internal suspension the following day. As per the Internal Suspension Space rules, mobile phones and accessories must be handed to the Internal Suspension, Reset & Reintegration Lead on entry. The student collects the phone/accessories at the end of the day. Further sanctions will follow if the student continues to be defiant, in line with our behaviour policy.

What happens if I need to speak to my child during the school day?

Your child is in school to learn and should avoid all distractions. We ask that you do not contact them during the school day or while they are on site.

In the rare case that that you need to pass a message to your child (e.g. in case of emergency), please contact the school office on 01293 423690.

If your child needs to speak to you, this must not be done during lesson time. They can use a school phone via their Year Team during either break.

If your child needs to contact you to put money on their Scopay account to purchase food, they will need to speak to the SLT member on duty outside the Refectory.

Contacting a parent without permission from a member of staff is not permitted and any student seen doing so will result in their phone being confiscated.

Can phones or accessories be used by my child during break?

No. We want to actively encourage prosocial skills and behaviours. This will help students to be **present** and encounter others with authenticity and confidence.

How can I support my child to use technology and social media safely?

- Discuss and model healthy relationship skills. Empathy, perspective-taking, and conversation skills learned offline will show up online
- Help to manage or limit the extent of their use. Taking away phones at night can help children develop healthier habits around technology use, such as putting their devices away when it's time to wind down for bed. You can also limit how much students can use their phones with many apps.
- Monitor your child's mobile phone use. There are [many apps that will help you to do this](#). In particular, it is recommended that you are mindful of "group chats" that your child may be a part of. This can often be unsafe as they may not know who they are talking to and might involve inappropriate content being discussed or shared.
- Remind them about the 'performative' aspect of social media, which can explain why people often appear happier on TikTok/Instagram etc. than they really are.
- Remind them that 'friends' from different parts of their lives can all see the same messages on social media
- Encourage a variety of in-person, real-life relationships. How to negotiate with others face-to-face, interact with people of different power levels, and resolve conflict are among the many interpersonal skills necessary in adult life
- Talk with your teen about taking a 'meta-moment'. They can make unfortunate mistakes, but these days a thoughtless remark online can be visible to hundreds of others and leave a permanent record .